Story: The Family Dinner

Danny tipped the basketball into the net.

The clock counted down and the buzzer blew.

Game over.

“Close game,” Danny said. “Maybe next time we’ll win.”

“I’m starving,” said Omar. “Let’s go to my place and order pizza.”

Danny and Omar took the city bus to Omar’s apartment.

They ordered a large pizza with six toppings: pepperoni, mushrooms, green peppers, onions, black olives and extra cheese.

And they ate the whole pizza.

It was Saturday. No school.

The doorbell rang.

“Danilo!“ Danny’s dad called.

Danny’s family always used his Filipino name.

He wished they would call him Danny, especially in front of his friends.

Omar stood at the door.

“Want to shoot some hoops?”

“Sure,” Danny said, grabbing his jacket.

Danny’s dad stopped him. “Lola and Lolo are here for family dinner, Danilo.”

Danny’s dad turned to Omar.

“Lola is grandma in Tagalog, and Lolo is grandpa. Would you like to join us?”

“Alright!” Omar said. “I’m starving.”

"You're always starving," Danny thought.

Why had his dad asked Omar to stay?

Filipino food had ingredients like jackfruit and cassava and coconut.

What would Omar think? They weren't having a large pizza with six toppings.

Maybe he could convince his dad to order pizza.

But dinner smelled so good. Lola made the best cassava cake and rice balls, too.

The boys played sipa with Danny's dad and Lolo until dinner was ready.

"It's a lot like hacky sack," Omar said, kicking the small ball into the air with his legs.

At dinner, Omar asked for second helpings.

"Sarap!" Lolo said.

"Sarap is the word in Tagalog for delicious," Danny's dad explained.

"Sarap!" Omar said, taking another piece of cassava cake.

And Danny did, too.

Monday night at the championship game...

The basketball game was almost over.

"Danilo!" Omar yelled.

Danny caught Omar's pass. He took the shot and made the basket. Two points!

The buzzer blew and the game ended.

They won the game!

The team was jumping up and down and cheering loudly.

Danny high-fived Omar and said, "Let's go celebrate with a pizza!"

Omar laughed and said, "I'd rather have cassava cake at your place... it's way better than pizza!"

Glossary *(Definitions of Story Words)*

Buzzer: A device that makes a buzzing sound. It's often used in sports games to let you know when a team gets a point, or when the game starts or stops.

Cassava: A type of small tropical tree. You can eat its roots.

Jackfruit: A large, sweet tropical fruit.

Shoot Hoops: To play basketball.

Sipa: A traditional sport in the Philippines. Two teams try to kick a soft ball over a net, but you can only touch the ball with your foot or leg below the knee.

Toppings: A food that you put on top of another type of food to add flavour.

Elements of a Story

Elements of a Story: The pieces of a story that come together to make it complete. Story elements include character, setting and plot.

Character: The people or animals in the story.

Conflict: The problem in the story that needs to be addressed or fixed.

Plot: What happens in the story.

Setting: Where and when the story takes place.

Theme: A story's main idea.